Low-pressure, Ambient-Water Flushing

Objective:	To remove fluid oil that has adhered to the substrate or man-made structures, pooled on the surface, or become trapped in vegetation.
Description:	Ambient-temperature water is sprayed at low pressures (<10 psi), usually from hand-held hoses, to lift oil from the substrate and float it to the water's edge for recovery by skimmers, vacuum, or sorbents. Usually used with a flooding system to prevent released oil from re-adhering to the substrate downstream of the treatment area.
Applicable Habitat Types:	On substrates, riprap, and solid, man-made structures, where the oil is still fluid. In wetlands and along vegetated banks where oil is trapped in vegetation.
When to Use:	Where fluid oil is stranded onshore or floating in shallow intertidal areas.
Biological Constraints:	May need to restrict use so that the oil/water effluent does not drain across sensitive intertidal habitats, and so that mobilized sediments do not affect rich subtidal communities. Use from boats will reduce the need for foot traffic in soft substrates and vegetation. Flushed oil must be recovered to prevent further oiling of adjacent areas.
Environmental Effects:	If containment methods are not sufficient, oil and oiled sediments may be flushed into adjacent areas. Flooding may cause sediment loss and erosion of the shoreline and shallow rooted vegetation. Some trampling of substrate and attached biota will occur.
Waste Generation:	Depends on the effectiveness of the collection method.